

1

2

3

4

5

6 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8

9 RICHARD DENSON,  
10 Plaintiff,  
11 vs.  
12 DET. J. DUCAS, et al.,  
13 Defendants.

Case No. 2:10-CV-00525-RCJ-(LRL)

**ORDER**

14  
15 Plaintiff has submitted an amended complaint (#6). The court has reviewed it, will dismiss  
16 defendant Ducas in his official capacity only, and will direct service of process upon defendants.

17 When a “prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a  
18 governmental entity,” the court must “identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any  
19 portion of the complaint, if the complaint (1) is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon  
20 which relief may be granted; or (2) seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such  
21 relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b). Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for  
22 dismissal of a complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Review under  
23 Rule 12(b)(6) is essentially a ruling on a question of law. North Star Intern. v. Arizona Corp.  
24 Comm’n, 720 F.2d 578, 580 (9th Cir. 1983). In considering whether the plaintiff has stated a claim  
25 upon which relief can be granted, all material allegations in the complaint are accepted as true and  
26 are to be construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. Russell v. Landrieu, 621 F.2d 1037,  
27 1039 (9th Cir. 1980). Allegations of a pro se complainant are held to less stringent standards than  
28 formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972) (per curiam).

1       In count 1, plaintiff claims that defendant Ducas, a detective of the Las Vegas Metropolitan  
 2 Police Department, violated the Fourth Amendment. Plaintiff had climbed down from a roof, was  
 3 blinded by headlights from a truck, tried to flee. Defendant Ducas, who was driving the truck,  
 4 accelerated and struck plaintiff with the truck. Plaintiff suffered broken bones and other injuries.  
 5 Now that plaintiff has invoked the correct constitutional provision, he has stated a claim against  
 6 defendant Ducas in his individual capacity. See Order (#4), pp. 2-3.

7       Plaintiff still has not stated a claim against defendant Ducas in his official capacity. As the  
 8 court has noted in its earlier order (#4), individual-capacity actions seek to impose personal liability  
 9 upon a government official for actions performed under color of state law, and official-capacity  
 10 actions generally represent another way of suing “an entity of which an officer is an agent.”

11 Kentucky v. Graham, 473 U.S. 159, 165 (1984) (quoting Monell v. Department of Social Services of  
 12 City of New York, 436 U.S. 658, 690 n.55 (1978)). For defendant Ducas, that entity is the Las  
 13 Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. To succeed with an official-capacity claim against  
 14 Defendants, Plaintiff must prove that any constitutional violations that he suffered occurred as a  
 15 result of an official policy or custom, Monell, 436 U.S. at 690, or through a failure to train municipal  
 16 employees adequately, City of Canton v. Harris, 489 U.S. 378, 388-91 (1989). The court noted that  
 17 plaintiff's allegations in the original complaint (#5) did not support the conclusion that what  
 18 happened resulted from such official action of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.  
 19 Order (#4), p. 3. The amended complaint (#6) does not correct that defect. The court will dismiss  
 20 the official-capacity claim against defendant Ducas, but the individual-capacity claim against  
 21 defendant Ducas will remain.

22       Count 2 is a claim that defendant Napcare, Inc., was deliberately indifferent in its treatment of  
 23 the injuries that plaintiff suffered. Because defendant Napcare, Inc., has contracted with the Las  
 24 Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to provide medical services at the Clark County Detention  
 25 Center, it is a person that acts under color of state law for the purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 1983. West  
 26 v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 54 (1988). Plaintiff has stated a claim against defendant Napcare, Inc.

27       IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the official-capacity claim against defendant Ducas is  
 28 **DISMISSED**. Defendant Ducas remains as a defendant in his individual capacity.

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of the court shall issue summons to the named  
2 defendants herein, and deliver same with copies of the amended complaint (#6) and this order to the  
3 U.S. Marshal for service. Plaintiff shall have twenty (20) days in which to furnish to the U.S.  
4 Marshal the required Forms USM-285. Within twenty (20) days after receiving from the U.S.  
5 Marshal a copy of the Form USM-285 showing whether service has been accomplished, plaintiff  
6 must file a notice with the court identifying which defendants were served and which were not  
7 served, if any. If plaintiff wishes to have service again attempted on an unserved defendant(s), then a  
8 motion must be filed with the court identifying the unserved defendant(s) and specifying a more  
9 detailed name and/or address for said defendant(s), or whether some other manner of service should  
10 be attempted.

11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that henceforth, plaintiff shall serve upon defendants or, if  
12 appearance has been entered by counsel, upon the attorney(s), a copy of every pleading, motion or  
13 other document submitted for consideration by the court. Plaintiff shall include with the original  
14 paper submitted for filing a certificate stating the date that a true and correct copy of the document  
15 was mailed to the defendants or counsel for the defendants. The court may disregard any paper  
16 received by a district judge or magistrate judge which has not been filed with the clerk, and any paper  
17 received by a district judge, magistrate judge or the clerk which fails to include a certificate of  
18 service.

19 || Dated: This 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2010.



ROBERT C. JONES  
United States District Judge